

DE LA SALLE
PHILIPPINES



CENTRAL HOUSE BULLETIN

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READING— MARK 9:38-43,45,47-48

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna.

REFLECTION

Not too long ago, an ad posed an important question that we need to ask ourselves often: *Para kanino ka bumabangon?* The campaign took for its inspiration, the ritual of having a cup of coffee as one rises from bed every morning—and gave this ritual new depth and insight. Rising from bed early in the morning can often be a great sacrifice, but if we know it is for someone or something that we love, then the act of getting up can be one of the most meaningful acts of the day.

Jesus, in the Gospel, hints at this experience of searching or having found the one thing that we love for which we are willing to make sacrifices. The

Gospel reminds us that to love is to learn as well the discipline of having to give up lesser loves in order to devote ourselves wholly to the one love we have chosen to give shape to our life and identity. In the Gospel, this one love is captured in the image of the Kingdom of God – an image that goes beyond mere personal or spiritual well-being to include the physical, material, political and communal.

Have we found the one love of our life for which or for whom we are willing to make sacrifices? Have we seen our sacrifices in view of a larger purpose?

RESPONSE

God of all love, we pray that we may know you and love you; that we may always rejoice in you. Let us go steadily on to the day when we come to that fullness which has neither end nor beginning, when our joy will be complete and we will see you face to face. This we ask through Jesus, our brother. AMEN.

THE GIFT OF MY ONE LIFE

In the last two years that I have been here, I have been disturbed to see little children hoping for one miracle to quench their thirst. I've seen and felt the poverty in their eyes, begging for only one hope. I have tried to share my time and giftedness in teaching these children. In my own limited experience of living and working with the poor, I realize that it is not enough to teach their minds. The real challenge of this commitment is to love and respect them unconditionally. To be of service is giving up all of our self unselfishly, without expecting anything in return or without hesitation or mental reservation. Volunteering requires endurance and patience, especially when unexpected things happen. I have learned to trust in God and my personal relationship with Him is the very foundation, which sustains me and allows me to persevere.

In our community of volunteers, we have shared our thoughts and laughter and even our distress. Despite the differences, the challenge of living a meaningful community life and of accepting each other's personality flaws remain. In the end, what matters is that we are committed to the transformation of the community we serve and that we bring hope to each other. I am convinced that my call is to love more and to bring God's love to the heart of every person.

Sarah Cabugnason was a Lasallian Volunteer from 2001 to 2004 assigned to our Volunteer Community in Langilanon, Iligan. She graduated from La Salle University in Ozamiz.

BIRTHDAYS (OCTOBER)

- 03** Chris Manalo (Student Assistant)
Felix Joseph Murillo (LSVP)
- 04** Francis Estrada (NMC)
- 07** Maria Christina Reyes (DLSP-SFS)
- 10** Br. Peter Foo FSC
Nena Borrás Portillo (DLSP-ADS)
- 14** Rebecca Maquiling (LSU FSC Community)
Precilla Torres (Residencia FSC Community)

LASALLIAN FEASTS

- 09** Blessed Martyrs of Turon
- 10** Blessed Martyr of Almeria

ALPHONSUS-THOMAS-MARTIN (ATM) AWARD



The Lasallian Schools Supervision Office (LASSO) hands out the Alphonsus-Thomas-Martin (ATM) Award to recognize Lasallian Partners who have contributed much in sharing the Lasallian Mission to schools through LASSO. The award is named after three De La Salle Brothers,

whose pioneering work started the ministry of supervising schools in the Philippines: Brs. Alphonsus Bloemen, Thomas Canon and Martin Simpson FSC.

The recipient of this year's ATM Award is Mrs. Norma C. Tagle who had served as LASSO supervisor to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Learning Center in Roxas City and school head of the St. Benilde School in Mansilingan, Bacolod City. Mrs. Tagle was a long-time teacher and administrator at the University of St. La Salle-Integrated School in Bacolod City before joining LASSO. Her managerial skills and dedication to the Lasallian educational mission have seen the two schools she supervised develop through the years. We salute Mrs. Tagle for her efforts and congratulate her for this achievement. The awarding ceremonies will be held at the National Shrine of the Divine Child, La Salle Green Hills in Mandaluyong City on 12 October 2012.

LSVP REPORT

The Lasallian Volunteer Program (LSVP) continues to be viable and vibrant with the deployment of nine dynamic individuals last 07 June. These Lasallians bring the mission of teaching minds, touching hearts and transforming lives to the communities of Langilanon, Pugaan, Iligan City and Bagac, Bataan.

ALAYON COMMUNITY (ILIGAN CITY)

For Ma. Devina dela Peña, Leonerose Rafols and Ruff Jon Florendo Jr.—the three Lasallian Volunteers comprising the LSVP Alayon Community—the Langilanon Preparatory School-La Salle Academy Extension continues to be the focus of the ministry of the LSVP presence in the area. For almost ten years, the volunteers facilitated the Kindergarten Program for the children of the community.

The month of June was spent mostly for enlistment of pupils (K1: 11 pupils and K2: 4 pupils) and facilitating

the election of officers for the Parents' Association. Likewise, community assignments and schedules were ironed out between volunteers and parents.



In July, the preparatory school celebrated Nutrition Month and culminated with the search for Mr. and Ms. Nutrition Month 2012. There were fun games on nutrition, a cooking competition amongst the parents of the pupils and a song number by the Parents' Organization. Likewise, the LSVs facilitated a short seminar on the food chain and the importance of nutrition amongst the members of the community.

In the month of August, the LSVs organized *Buwan ng Wika*, which saw the volunteers engaging in storytelling about the lives of famous Philippine Heroes while underscoring love for the Filipino language despite the global use of English as the main medium of exchange. This activity involved both the pupils of the school as well as the parents.

KAAKIBAT COMMUNITY (BAGAC, BATAAN)

As with the Alayon Community, the month of June for the Lasallian volunteers (Rochil Lasta, Mayan Gosgolan, Lan Antijendra, Coco Rafiñan, Cris Pason and Felix Murillo) assigned in Bagac, Bataan was spent preparing the two areas where the Kaakibat preparatory school would operate. The Bagac-Bayan area would enlist 35 pupils (K1: 21 pupils and K2: 14 pupils) while the Sitio Looc enrollment had 22 pupils (11 pupils for both K1 and K2). During this month, orientation activities were also held for the parents on the curriculum that would be implemented as well as teacher assignments.

In partnership with the Brothers assigned in Jaime Hilario Integrated School-La Salle (JHIS-LS), the Lasallian volunteers organized the settlers of Sitio Looc into a "samahan" aptly called Sitio Looc Municipal Fishers' Association (SLMFA). Its main purpose, as with most gathering, is to protect

the group's Political and Community Interest and ensure safety of the people of "Pabahay" through collaborative endeavors.



Through monthly meetings, the LSVs with the accompaniment of Br. Aikey Esmeli FSC, assisted the SLMFA chairman to convene the *Samahan* and look for opportunities that could help the group enhance their capabilities and economic growth.

The *Samahan* has a strong focus on livelihood, environment protection, waste disposal, infrastructure and spiritual needs. Likewise, the SLMFA addresses issues on finance, human resources and *Pabahay* disputes.

August was also *Buwan ng Wika* for Kaakibat Preparatory Schools. Through several activities, Kaakibat students were given the opportunity to embody the Filipino tradition, with special focus on the appreciation of the Filipino language.

The month-long celebration was culminated with a program that saw the pupils and parents participate in performances and fun games.

BAMCREF SIXTY YEARS AND COUNTING



The Br. Andelino Manuel Castillo FSC Religious Educational Foundation, Inc. (BAMCREF) celebrated their 60th Anniversary last 21 September. They held a thanksgiving Mass presided over by Bishop Gabriel Reyes DD at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament in De La Salle University (DLSU).

BAMCREF was founded in 1952 by Br. Manuel Castillo FSC, an American Brother and former President of DLSU. The Center provided catechism classes in public elementary schools in Manila. It started with 29 student catechists from high school and college departments of DLSU, increasing their number to 100 in the year 1953. Because student catechists could dedicated their time fully, Br. Manuel started recruiting and hiring full-time religion teachers. He trained them and became a Professional Catechist. Later on, he joined the DLSU Catechetical Center in 1957.

To continue the operation of the Center, Parish Priests and various charitable groups extend their hand in financing the organization by paying the catechists a minimum salary. Regular catechetical formation, yearly retreats, recollections, spiritual formation and pilgrimage are also part of the Center's improvement and development activities. At present, 16 public Schools with a total of 36,080 students are under the program. BAMCREF is under the supervision of the President's office of DLSU, headed by Br. Ricky Laguda FSC.

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